

Incumbents pressured by challenging candidates

By SARY FORNARIS
Staff Writer

Three seats are up for grabs at the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees. On April 20, voters will decide which three of the 16 candidates will fill them.

The three incumbents and 13 challengers have campaigned mainly on two issues: the controversial sale of the District's headquarters building at 4050 Wilshire and on the dwindling budgets and tuition fee hikes imposed by the state government on California colleges.

Most of the candidates have an outlined plan which, they say, will help to raise the funds needed to bring back affordable and quality education to the colleges.

Board members serve for four years on a part-time basis with a \$24,000 a year salary. The open seats are in Offices No. 2, 4 and 6.

Office No. 2 Incumbent Patrick Owens, who has become known for his outspoken opposition to several Board decisions, has been in office for four years. The former Trade-Tech automotive instructor said he wants to prevent tuition fees from being increased and get private industries "to help fund our classes needed to retraining," to reduce the amount of unemployed workers.

Maria Escalante, a vocational education administrator says experience and having the interest of the students at heart is all that is needed to take care of the financial problems in the colleges system. "Students need to be put first...and everything will take care of itself," she said.

Escalante says she has developed a plan to get funds for the colleges. Among the solutions she proposes directing one percent of the Gross Domestic National Product to fund a national education endowment. The fund will be available to students with loan interests as low as two percent. That interest will be used to fund educational salaries and capital expenditures. She also proposes a one-cent tax per gallon on gasoline and an 8 1/2 percent sales tax on junk food.

"Everybody hates to pay tax but we have to take care of education somehow," she said.

Elizabeth Garfield, a former high school teacher and now a lecturer of labor relations at Trade Tech, said her "excellent relationship with elected officials state-wide and in the legislature, will help to lobby for money in Sacramento." At the same time, she said, we need to come up with alternatives for funding. She suggests making contract education with the business community. "We give them

the instruction they need and they will pay the District for this service."

Garfield said the District needs to make sure every position is needed and cut bureaucracy to avoid waste. Garfield is the wife of Wallace Knox, president of the Board.

Joseph Ortiz, a business owner and communications instructor, said "the Board of Trustees has not been creative enough." He agrees with entering a partnership with Corporate America, but he also suggested making each college the "cultural nerve center" of their individual community.

By holding seminars, conventions, and celebrations like *Cinco de Mayo* and Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the colleges will generate revenue and, at the same time, will promote intracultural relations in the community.

With all their master degrees they lack money management, said candidate Williams. "They sold a building that cost \$12 million for \$8 million," Williams said, in reference to the 4050 Wilshire building which has not been used since it was purchased.

"...I have no interest to become a senator nor a congressman."

—Xavier Hermosillo

Ronald R. Williams, a college business major says the present board members lack money management skills. "They sold a building that cost \$12 million for \$8 million," he also wants to involve the private sector.

We could not get in touch with Josh Addison Arce.

Office No. 4 Incumbent Lindsay Conner, an entertainment lawyer, has been a board member for 12 years. Conner said he will continue to fight the fee increases because the 11 percent cuts for education and the nine percent increase for the prisons budget, "is a classic example of misplaced priority." He also agrees with establishing a partnership with the business community.

Xavier Hermosillo, the owner of a public relations company, says the board has been operating in "an atmosphere of anonymity and obscurity," and is trying to manipulate and hide things from the public. His number-one priority is to open communications and get the students and the public involved. "I am there as a taxpayer and a parent. I have no interest to become a senator nor a congressman," he said.

Casey Peters, an administrative assistant at the UCLA research library says education should be free, as it was prior to 1984. The

money for it "...should come from an income tax increase at the highest income level."

Since this is not likely to happen, he suggested breaking up the District and allowing each campus to be governed by its own board of trustees with a district coordinator. This will eliminate an extra layer of bureaucracy, he said. Among other plans, he will try to get academic publishers to lower the prices of textbooks and return the bookstore back to student management.

In Office No. 6 Althea Baker, a lawyer, is the incumbent. Baker is seeking her second term. She was not available for comment.

Fernando Del Rio, manager of public communications for the Southern California Association of Governments, said he has come up with "probably the most feasible solution" for the monetary problems of the colleges.

Based on the United Negro Fund Programs, he suggests collecting money from the alumni association of the colleges. The money would be used for two purposes only, financial aid and instructional material. He also suggests getting businesses to contract vocational programs.

Peter Halt, a self-employed CPA with eight years of experience, said he has the financial expertise that the lawyers and teachers sitting on the board lack. He said too little of the \$374 million the board gets to run the nine colleges, is actually reaching the classrooms. "We need to have appropriate fiscal planning. We need to relook at the way we make decisions of spending," he said. Colleges need to once again offer vocational and remedial courses, instead of just transfer programs, he said.

Alice Hilda Lane, a fine arts student at USC, said we need to start working with the money we have and we need to improve the quality of what is being offered. "Our current system is too inferior for people to pay the kind of money we ask," She agrees that Corporate America needs to be brought in for help.

Stanley Camilla Benson Viltz, dean of academic affairs at Los Angeles Southwest College, said she is not against the teachers, but the board members that the AFT guild endorses end up making decisions that protect the teachers at the expense of the students. She wants that "stronghold" of the AFT to be cut.

She says businesses do not help because the Board takes too long to process the paperwork and because business can get the same training for less money somewhere else. "AFT needs to understand the salary schedule needs to be adjusted to provide better interaction between school and business."

volunteers for poetry readings or other sessions between the sets on stage, Wisham said.

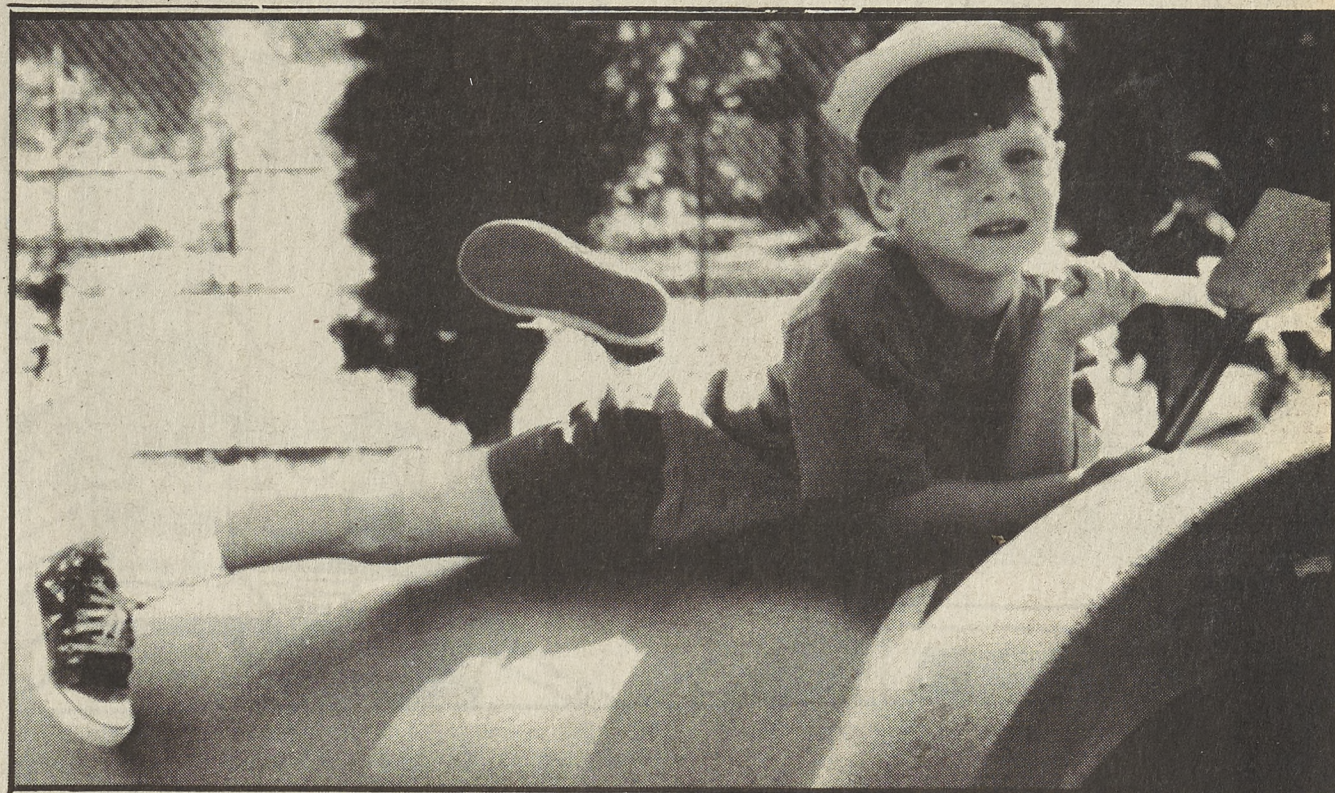
Commenting on the importance of bringing the environmental issues to the public awareness, Geoffrey Sharples, office manager of the Los Angeles office of Green Peace said "Everything is connected...so you've got to respect your environment because it's a part of you."

Sharples said that Green Peace which works to protect all life on the planet through "non-violent direct actions" will have a table with information on ways to get involved such as letter writing campaigns.

Trying to conserve not only natural resources, but also financial resources, Wisham said, "One of my goals is not to over spend my account." He said that the entire cost for the event will be about \$200, leaving \$50 in the environmental concerns account.

He added that Earth Day could have more, but they do not have the finances now.

Wisham said that he hopes that the event will increase students concern for the environment so he will have the support to improve the recycling program on campus next year.



ALMA GONZALEZ / Valley Star

Sebastian Motola is one of the large number of kids that attend LAVC's Child Development center.

Children encouraged to learn aspects of life with physical play

By MARION JIMENEZ
Staff Writer

"Play, at different levels, makes up a large portion of the child's day at the LAVC Child Development Center," according to the center's philosophy statement. Children are encouraged to learn ideas through physical play.

"Playing inside a box is a beginning step toward reading the word 'inside' and understanding the related concept."

Children have different ways of understanding. Some observe other children or adults, while others find it easier to ask questions. "Each person develops the style that is most suitable."

The center realizes that children will use different styles of understanding at different stages of development, and provides a good environment for those changes.

Teachers at the center make the children see they have books to read as well as puzzles and games to play.

"The child comes to the center as an eager learner." The morning crew arrives between 7:45 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. and are given breakfast, according to Larry Merkle, child development center director. "Then from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., they go outside to play," he added.

"Movement is interwoven with every aspect of development. It has as much to do with their thinking as it does with developing muscular skill," Merkle said.

After they burn off part of their breakfasts, the children pour into one of the center's four morning classrooms.

Once inside, a certified teacher carries out carefully planned ac-

tivities proper to each age group.

"Teachers plan specific daily activities to provide a well-rounded and complete program."

"Most of our students leave between noon and 1 p.m. Then from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. is rest time. They can take a nap and when they wake up we give them a snack," says Merkle.

After their snack, the children can go out and play until 3 p.m. when everyone goes home.

Single females make up 75 percent of parents that make use of the center's facilities. Two parent families make up the other 25 percent.

The majority of parents come to Valley because it is the closest college to their home.

The center's operating hours coordinate with day and evening classes.

Since most classes begin at 8 a.m., the day preschool program opens their doors at 7:45 a.m. Children in this program must be at least three years old and not yet eligible for kindergarten.

Three sessions, ending at noon 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., make it convenient for parents who get out of class at different times.

At 3 p.m., when most day classes have ended, the center closes, but reopens at 5:45 p.m. in time to help the evening students who begin classes at 6 p.m.

The evening school-age program serves mostly working parents who attend classes at night. These are parents whose children are eligible for kindergarten but are not over 14 years of age.

"We rarely get anyone over 12 years of age, because they don't want to come," says Merkle.

This program is open Monday through Thursday and is available one or more evenings as needed.

One certified teacher and at least one student assistant take care of the children at night.

Part-time work is available to students at Valley as assistants to the certified teachers. Requests for applications are at the center.

During the day, as many as 80 children swarm the center's colorful campus, although only 62 children are allowed at one time.

There are four certified teachers during the day, one per classroom. "The teachers have a lot of experience in training students who are studying child development," says Merkle.

Students from CSUN come to Valley to complete their field work requirements, usually about 40 hours per semester, according to Merkle. The program, which has been at this campus since Spring '75, was started to provide service to low income students who are returning to school. Merkle has been here since the center opened.

The cost of child care depends on how much the parent or parents need it. Need is determined by family size as well as income. "A mother with a low income and three children would have more need than someone with the same income and one child, for instance," says Merkle.

A student-parent pays zero to two dollars per hour for the child care, and all meals are provided at no extra cost. Most of the parents who come to the child care center are attending Valley for job training.

"The majority of students have established goals of what they want to do," says Merkle. The largest group in one study field, 25 percent, are in the nursing program.

Ozone Layer, Rain Forest discussed

By STEVEN KOSOY
Staff Writer

The diminishing ozone layer, dwindling natural resources, disappearing rain forests, global warming, toxic waste; these problems that overwhelm so many people will be addressed on campus at Earth Day, Wed. April 21, 10-4 p.m., said Paul Wisham, the Associated Students Union (ASU) commissioner for environmental concerns.

"It's an awareness festival," Wisham said, "to bring different people together." They want to bring the ecological problems to the public's attention, he said, "To acknowledge that there are alternative resources."

Earth Day will feature different environmental organizations such as the Sierra Club, Green Peace, and the Hemp Coalition who will offer information on the ecology and what each group is doing about rescuing it. They will also tell students how they can get involved.

Wisham said they are expecting between 500 and 1,000 people will come to the event and hopes that students will find something that they are interested in and will look into.

"They don't have to feel overwhelmed by it," Wisham said of

the ecology crisis. But, he added that if they do not peak students' interest and students do not feel that the ecology means anything to them then they will not support it. "We need to make it relevant to them," he said.

Helping Wisham make the ecology relevant to Earth Day visitors will be Chuck Stein of Sierra Club. Stein, a member of the executive board of the Angeles chapter will be speaking at the event.

Although Stein said that he did not know exactly what he would be speaking about, he said since he would be speaking outdoors he would probably speak about the many outdoor activities of the club, such as hikes throughout the area and marine activities such as tide pool investigations and boating trips.

Wisham said that they have three bands lined up for the event; Pera, Ionnie Sky, and Beruka halt. They are also trying to get additional speakers and to arrange for KROQ radio to do a remote broadcast from the event. "It's a maybe," Wisham added.

Held around the free speech area at the north end of campus, there will be booths from different ASU clubs as well as tables from the different ecological organizations with information for students.

They are still looking for student

Cultural awareness explores diversity

By JOSE I. LEMUS
Staff Writer

Multi-cultural awareness on campus will be promoted in a program sponsored by the Staff Development and Staff Diversity committees on Wed. April 21 from 1-4:30 p.m.

"The program is supposed to help people to examine stereotypes, expand cultural awareness, explore the value of diversity and combat bigotry," said English Professor Jeanne Polak, chairwoman of the staff diversity committee and coordinator of the event.

Polak said the program "A Campus of Difference" will come to LAVC for the first time in an effort to promote understanding among different cultural groups that make up the diverse college population.

"A Campus of Difference," is a newly created program of The Anti-Defamation League (ADL), a human rights agency established in 1913 to fight bigotry and prejudice against all people.

Cultural tensions at LAVC are not as bad as it is on other college campuses, Polak said.

However, she said, "I would like the outcome to be a better relationship on our campus with one another, better understanding for

students and a better understanding of ourselves," she said.

ASU President Jesse Hernandez praised the news of the event. He said that the program is very much needed on campus.

"The article published in the 'Valley Star' last week shows that we do not have complete understanding of each other," Hernandez said.

"Obviously, we need programs that enlighten our fellow student about the different cultures here on campus. And in the process of enlightening them, maybe teach them how to be sensitive about issues involving any particular culture," he said.

Hernandez made his statement in light of the article "Students bark up the wrong tree" published in the April 8 issue of the "Valley Star" which attributes some of California's economic hardship to the "influx of illegal" aliens.

The three and a half hour program will include discussions and exercises that will allow participants to exchange experiences as well as a "cultural self-knowledge exam."

"A goal of the program," Polak said, "is to examine the way we think of one another, the way we perceive one another. And to look at the way other people perceive us."

Polak said people's perceptions of one another often create stereo-

types that affect their relationships in the workplace or at the school and guide their behavioral patterns.

Polak also said that stereotypes are often critical elements in certain hiring practices.

ADL will present the program delivered by an ethnically diverse team of professionals, Polak said.

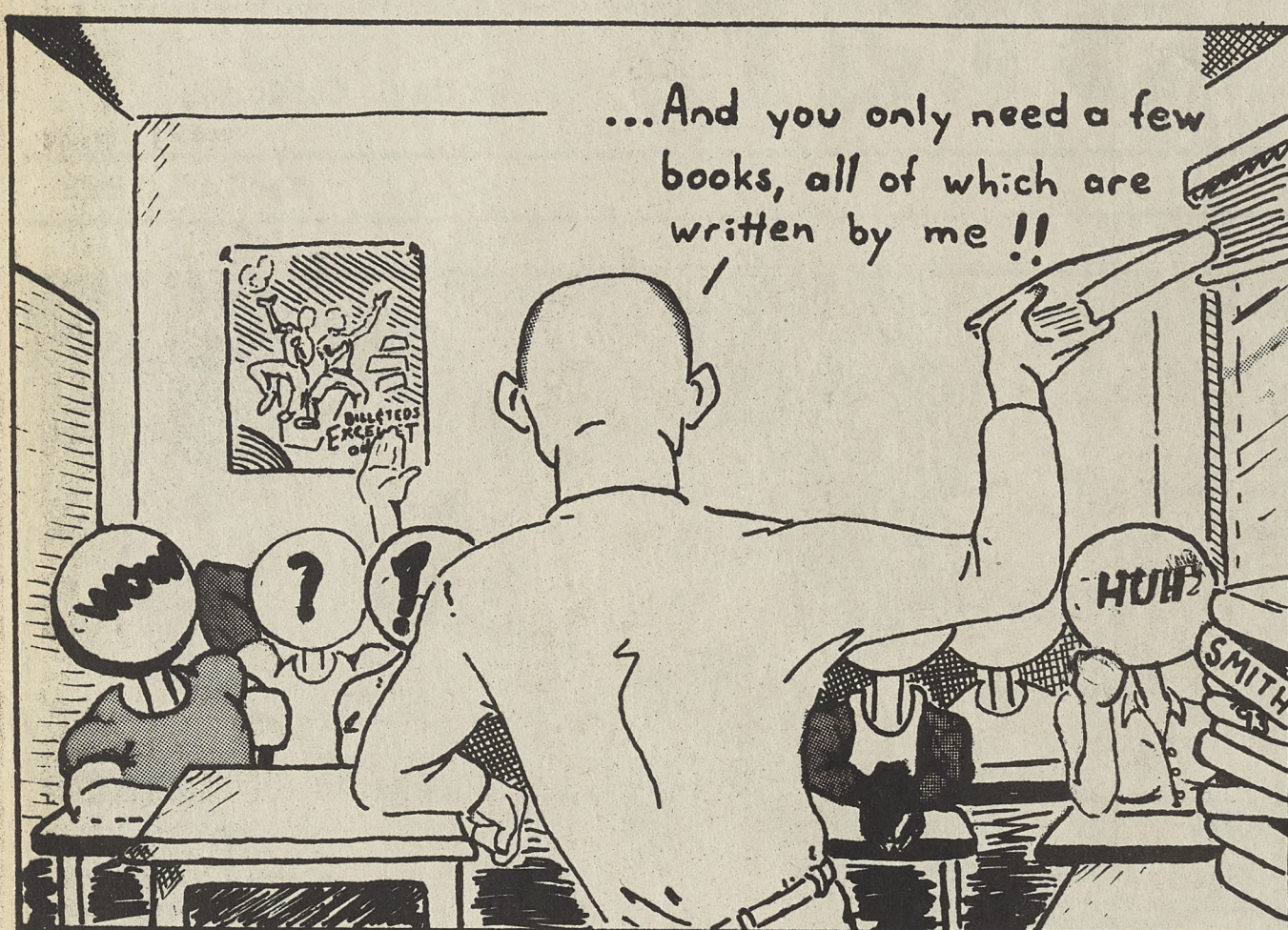
One of the motivations of the staff diversity committee, she said, "is to increase representation in the faculty of the various people who make up the United States of America."

"We need to reflect the demographics of the community and our students," Polak said.

As of March '92, 20 percent of the whole LAVC faculty were from underrepresented groups, including people of color, women and the disabled, Polak said.

The program is not intended to examine college curriculums, however Polak said, it helps to develop awareness of the different needs of the college population.

Polak said space for the event is limited to 80 participants. But they are encouraging the different groups on campus to participate: students, faculty, classified staff and administrators. Reservations are being made with Jeanne Polak at extension 291.



Letters to the Editor

Article brings back memories for student

Dear Editor:

I'm responding to the April 8 article written by Lucy Thomas. Personally, I found the article misinformed and insulting. Ms. Thomas' article shows signs of "yellow journalism" or biased journalism take your pick.

Ms. Thomas, when reporters like yourself write an article such as this, you set a tone of hurt and pain and racial tension that is not needed in these desperate but hard times in this state.

This kind of journalism also reminds me of articles printed during the 1940's Zoot Suit Riots of Los Angeles. At that time, the

articles would characterize Chicano kids and young adults as criminals who came from a violent culture. That resulted in American sailors attacking and beating any young man who was wearing a zoot suit, especially if they were Chicano.

Let me point out another fact of poor journalism, the case of the Scottsboro Boys. A 1930's rape trial that resulted in the arrest and false conviction of five black males. The Southern reporters characterized these young men as monsters. Black males at that time were hanged because of a biased reporters fear of black men.

May I add one more fact of

history. During World War II, Japanese Americans were kicked out of their homes and their property and had their livelihood taken away from them. This also resulted from biased journalism. Reporters at that time would call Japanese people insulting names in American newspapers, the final result was imprisonment for Japanese Americans.

The list goes on. We should find better ways of fixing what is broken instead of shifting the blame on undocumented workers who work hard to support their children.

Chris James
LAVC Student

Blame misdirected on undocumented immigrants

Dear Editor:

The article "Students bark..." is an attempt to make a case against undocumented immigrants by blaming them for being the cause of the decrease in community college funding. However, even if one supposedly accepts that there is a connection between the education budget cuts and the cost of undocumented immigrants in this country, how can anyone justify their protest against these people, considering the reason for the migration for most of these people to this country?

As it is noted in this 1988 article from the National Coalition of Advocates for Students: "...When the ties that bind one region to another are of social, political, and economic dependence, the flow of migration takes place from the dependent region, such as Central America to the source of dependen-

cy, such as United States...[Today's immigrants]...come from such diverse places as Haiti, Vietnam, El Salvador, Cambodia, Guatemala, Honduras, and Laos. All are Third World nations...which have been the site of the most bitter international struggles of modern times.

All are nations over which the U.S. has had considerable economic and political influence, and in which U.S. policy had a lot to say about the course of history...we have a responsibility for their being here in the first place--and therefore a responsibility for their survival and welfare. (N.C.A.S., p. 9)

The fact is, in the times of economical hardship there always have been some attempts made by some groups to blame minorities and foreigners for their problems. This article is a clear example of that. It is an attempt to justify bigoted beliefs against some immigrants by blaming them for the budget crisis in California and using

this issue as a scapegoat in stead of the real source of the problem. But it justifies nothing except that people who hold these beliefs are nothing but bigots and cowards who perhaps may suffer from xenophobia (fear of foreigners).

It should also be said that education is one of the most basic rights and foundations of a free society.

After all, the root of all freedoms is the freedom of thoughts. But freedom of thoughts doesn't have any meaning if people don't have an equal opportunity to develop their thoughts by educating themselves.

The only way to reserve the right to higher education is for students to join hands in a unified effort to resist the politicians who attempt to make higher education less accessible to people. Rallying in Sacramento was certainly a step in the right direction.

Nader Korhani
Film major

Star stories need to be more timely

Dear Editor:

I have just one complaint about your newspaper. Inherent in the definition of news is timeliness. The great majority of your articles start with, "...such and such an event happened..." last week.

I would be much more likely to attend an event if I knew it was go-

ing to occur. If a student doesn't have a class in a certain building or go to the cafeteria, there really is no other way of finding out about upcoming events. This would be a very useful service that could be provided by the Valley Star.

Completely unrelated but a suggestion for additional revenues

would be to have the vendors advertise in the Star and have permanent booths on campus with items that are widely desired by students, making for a convenient market and meeting place.

Sherry Silver
English/Pan African Studies major

Profit motive for LAVC authors questioned

By MILES GRANDFIELD
Staff Writer

Whenever I open a textbook that I have just paid forty-something dollars for and I read on the title page the words: By Dr. Blahdeebah, Prof. of Boinkdeebloink, Los Angeles Valley College, I smell a rat.

That is not to cast aspersions on any of my professors at LAVC, in fact all of my teachers have been excellent. But I have to wonder if it is in the best interests of LAVC students that professors can write a textbook and then make a profit by requiring their students to buy the book for their classes.

In what seems to be a classic example of conflict-of-interest, this is a common practice at LAVC and throughout the California system of higher education.

The theory is that each teacher knows best how to impart their knowledge to a class, and that allowing them to designate texts which are tailored to their own course outlines benefits everyone. It is certainly beneficial to the teachers. Whether it is always good for students is debatable.

There is no question that many of the more than 37 texts and workbooks sold at the bookstore which have been written by present and former teachers at LAVC are excellent publications. (Some pro-

fessors sell their books directly to students in the classroom). The quality of others, however, has been called into question by students and teachers alike.

But quality aside, the fact remains that teachers in public institutions are profiting by selling books to a captive market. If you want to take the class, you gotta buy the book.

This type of practice is generally prohibited in the public sector. California conflict-of-interest laws state that public employees "may not be financially interested in any contract made by them in their official capacity." If that law doesn't apply to professors who require students to buy their books, then a similar statute which does should be passed.

The situation now exists whereby a teacher has an incentive to write a text not because there is an inherent need for it, but because they can make money selling it to a guaranteed market. That invites mediocrity and waste. It is also contrary to the free market system and imposes a sort of micro-monopoly for the authors and their publishers.

I am sure that all the teachers at LAVC who have prepared their own texts have done so with the highest ethical purposes. But regardless of the quality of the book or the good intentions of the professors involved, there seems to me to be an element of impropriety about it.

Should we ban professors from including their own books as required texts for their classes? Of course not. To do so would deprive us of some valuable learning tools.

We must, however, remove any hint of a profit motive for selling books to students within the Los Angeles Community College District. Teachers should not be allowed to make money by assigning their own books in their classes.

The price of books which have been written by anyone with a connection to the LACCD should not include a writers' royalty when sold to students in the District as required material. This would leave teachers and department heads with no incentive for choosing a book other than to see that the students' best interests are served.

Professors are already paid a lot of money to prepare class materials as part of their salary. Of course they should still be permitted to profit from sales of their books outside the LACCD. This would help to ensure quality by forcing the publishers to prove the viability of the product in a broader academic market.

"Being published" is an important consideration when a professor is up for a new job or promotion and they should have every right to publish. But allowing them to assign their own books and make a profit by doing so is improper within the public schools.

Do not put the blame on them

By AMANDA DUCHOW
Staff Writer

I don't understand how people can blame illegal immigrants for the economic problems in this state.

When there are so many problems, it is hard not to want to put the blame in one place. The answer is not that easy.

It seems next to impossible that the reason that Pete Wilson is raising my fees next semester is that there are illegal immigrants streaming into this country.

The Governor has decided that prisons are more important than education. It seems that the State

assembly thinks a pay raise is more important than an education.

In my opinion if we are going to blame illegal aliens for the financial problems in a state that is crime ridden and over flowing with fiscal burdens than we have no one to blame but ourselves.

With the exception of the Native Americans, everyone in this country comes from immigrants. This country is made up of different nationalities blending together.

I find it next to impossible to believe that anyone can blame immigration, drugs, crime or any other one problem for the mess that has been created in this state. It is so easy to want to lay blame. I even find

myself blaming the governor for all the problems. But I also know that it can't be all his fault.

When there is a deficit, it is usually education that gets the royal shaft. Unless we, as students and as voters, stand up for what we believe in and fight for our right to an education, nothing is ever going to change. Education will continue to get kicked around like a rusty old can.

Laying the blame is not going to make the problem any better only worse.

I think students are definitely "barking up the right tree" by fighting for their right to a low cost education. Putting blame elsewhere is nothing more than wasted energy.

Lift the golden lamp and leave the doors of America open

By EVA R. YELLOZ
Staff Writer

Ever since I can remember, immigrants—legal or otherwise, did the least-wanted work.

Shipsloads of refugees entered New York Harbor and there was no sight more exhilarating for them than the Statue of Liberty holding her torch to welcome them. It seems that the sonnet on the pedestal holding the lady had much meaning to newcomers. It was written by Emma Lazarus and entitled "The New Colossus" and reads in part:

*Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me:
I lift my lamp beside the golden door.*

America was the place to be. People of all nations saw Hollywood movies and their dreams began. They thought the streets were lined with gold.

Immigration is never easy. Much thought and planning goes into a move—whether it be from Van

Nuys to Sherman Oaks or Budapest to Tegucigalpa. Immigrants have always sacrificed the comforts of family closeness to come "across" and seek shelter, refuge and better economic opportunity.

Many immigrants who have the option to return to their homeland do. Others who cannot, get caught in a trap and are lucky if they can return for a visit. What does "go back" is a big chunk of their meager paychecks.

Awaiting refugees and immigrants are eager employers seeking cheap labor. Whether the worker is legal or not, the market for their services is great.

I remember relatives who came to the States in the early '30s. They fled Poland before Hitler's occupation. They settled in New York and worked side by side with Italian and Irish immigrants in sweatshops in the garment industry. Their lives consisted of long hours, poor pay, hardly a benefit and a fear of the "Boss." They came to escape religious persecution and wound up having to work during their most holy days.

It took decades for unions to crop-up and fight for workers rights

and benefits. Meanwhile children were born and parents died; all for the sake of future generations.

When times were good it seems like Uncle Sam was the benevolent relative, "Come and stay with us. We'll take care of you." But when times are bad and the economy is hurting, it's "You'll have to go back to where you came from."

When we flourish, the immigrant's cheap labor is a welcome addition to the workplace. But when our nation must pull in its belt, it seems like there is no room for them. They've suddenly lost their seniority.

Will it help now if we become the mean guy and close our borders? Are we ready to be the spirited pioneers we once were who built homes and worked in agriculture? Are women ready to give up a larger portion of their salaries and pay workmen's compensation for fancy nannies procured from employment agencies?

If America will go back to basics, then okay! If not, their doors must remain open for the immigrant who wants the opportunity to flourish here just like all the fathers of our country did. That's what America is all about.

Valley Star



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Editorial and Advertising Offices
5800 Fulton Ave. Van Nuys, CA. 91401
Phone (818)781-1200, Ext. 275/276
Advertising Ext. 239

NANCY VIGRAN
Editor-in-Chief

JULIE D. BAILEY
Advertising Director

Represented by CASS
Advertising Service
1800 Sherman Pl.
Evanston, IL. 60201

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★ LETTERS ★ LETTERS ★ LETTERS ★ LETTERS ★ LETTERS ★

The Valley Star is happy to receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers.

The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 350 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or

make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist, or sexually oriented denigrations.

Letters should be signed and include student's major and ID number. Letters may be presented to the Valley Star office, Bungalow 25, by Monday morning for the following Thursday.



LazerSport is a blast

By EVA R. YELLOZ
Staff Writer

Wear a dark outfit so they won't see you. Be ready to duck and hide. Practice squat thrusts so you can crouch easily. Come by day or venture out at night. The sport awaits.

After ascending the escalator to the upper level of the La Reina Fashion Plaza on Ventura Boulevard in Sherman Oaks there are only a few seconds of running to the entrance of the newest and only inter-active laser sports arena in southern California - LazerSport.

It's a sensational and safe game in a substance-free environment. Up to 30 people at a time can blast each other with hi-tech laser guns that shoot out a safe, high powered incandescent beam of light.

The game was created with kids in mind. But it depends who you consider a kid. College students, real estate agents and parents playing with or on opposing teams of their children can be found in this galactic paradise above the San Fernando Valley's busiest boulevard.

Attention has been given to detail in the interior design of the arena and arcade. From the moment of entry, a LazerSport player feels like he's left planet Earth. Looking down at the carpeting or gazing up at the ceiling or walls - outerspace feels like your realm.

Planetary murals cover the entrance area. The playing arena is dark and a fog machine provides mist to add to the mood. Light beams are easily detected through the simulated clouds.

The object of the game, according to manager Roger Shields, is to see which team scores higher. Shields says "LazerSport is the electronic family game of the '90s. All ages love it." He adds that there are only a few similar arenas in the rest of the country that use this state-of-the-art equipment.

Players don a battery-packed holster bearing the laser gun. Sensor head gear tops off the space battle accessories. After you're charged up by LazerSport personnel, you're on your own. The key objective is to dodge your enemy and not to get zapped.

If you fall prey to the aggressor, your laser gun becomes inactive and the next step is to run to the nearby re-set station. Then you're back in business except that the scoreboard has just registered a point to your opponent.

Mark Jowett, assistant manager and Los Angeles Valley College gymnastics coach currently on Sabbatical leave says he sees elementary school kids and college students come in and look stressed out. "They've been to the movies and come here and say 'Let's try it out.' They leave sweating and smiling." Jowett is also a counselor at

Monarch's summer and winter day camps. He says a lot of kids recognize him. He gets a kick watching them play.

Although LazerSport is a non-contact action/adventure game and the gun used is nothing more than a highly intensified flash light, some parents and students at LAVC refuse to play the mock battle.

Avo Krikorian, 21, business/economics major in his third year says "Maybe it (LazerSport) teaches you how to live in L.A." His friend Ozzie Jingoian, 20, a political science student says he hasn't heard of LazerSport but would prefer to try Paintball. "At least you get a chance to climb walls, you're out in nature - you have to avoid pot holes; there's strategy. Also you can feel it when you get hit. It's somewhat realistic."

Barbara Mitchell, a student of Administrative Justice and mother says, "I don't let my son play with guns. I don't want him aiming on purpose or not."

Another parent and LAVC student of Administration of Justice, Tamika Scott says "There's enough violence on the streets. I don't need my kids playing 'Star Wars' especially at \$5 for 15 minutes."

Even though aggression is a factor in the game - LazerSport does deliver a "Rush" when you bleep out the other guy. And it can feel great relieving some parental pressure by zapping out your kid. (Just kidding!)

Guitarist, jazz band featured

Jason Vieaux, 1992 winner of the First Place Award at the Guitar Foundation of America Competition, will appear Sunday, April 18, in the Music Recital Hall at Los Angeles Valley College.

Vieaux, who is from upstate New York, has been playing the guitar since he was eight years old and first performed in public at the age of 12. He is currently on a 50-city tour and is also completing his third year at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$6.00 general and \$5.00 with LAVC I.D. and seniors.

...

A 14-piece jazz band featuring top professionals from Southern California will appear in concert next Thursday, April 22, in Monarch Hall at 11 a.m., as part of the continuing music on campus series sponsored by the Music Department.

The Tom Talbert Jazz Orchestra will perform the leaders' arrangements of classic standards by Duke Ellington, Fats Waller, and Cole Porter, plus original compositions by Talbert.

Talbert's Orchestra has recently recorded a new album, "Someone's Rocking My Blues," not yet released. He also has two recordings available now Seabreeze Records, "Things As They Are," and "Louisiana Suite." Admission is free.



D'ANDRE FORD / Valley Star

A lithograph by Ruth D. Williams is one entry in an art contest held this week in Monarch Hall featuring works by LAVC students on the theme, "Spirituality." The event is co-sponsored by ASU and the Art Department and offers cash awards

and gift certificates to the winners. Viewers of the exhibition are asked to vote for their favorite pieces in five categories: drawing, mixed media, painting, printmaking and sculpture.

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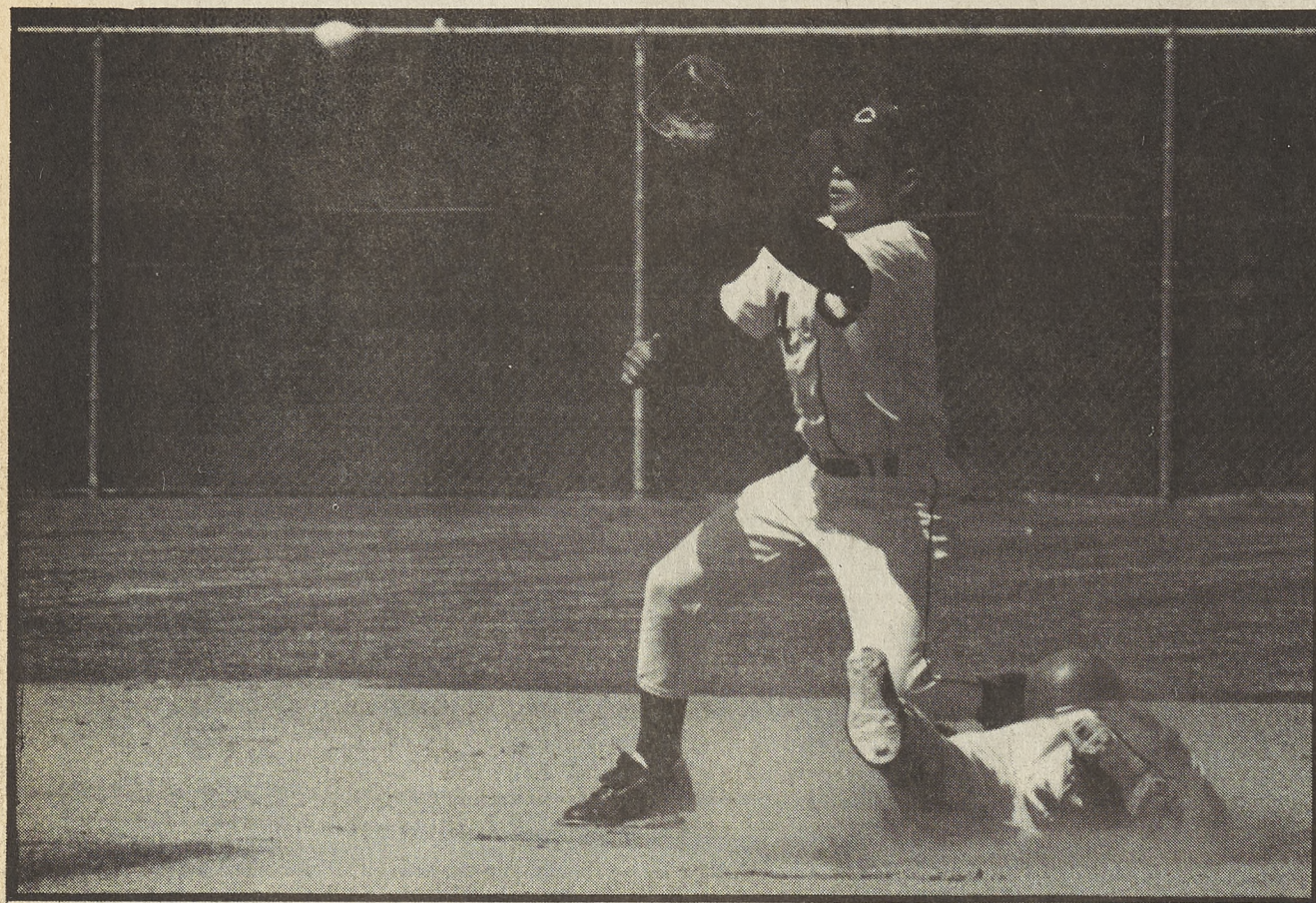
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ADAM CROCKER / Valley Star

Valleys Ozzie Areu stole second base in the first inning as Canyon's Ari Jacobs waits for the throw. Un-

timely errors cost Valley the game as the Cougars came from behind to win 5-4.

Swimmers race to win

By LUCY THOMAS
Staff Writer

Yesterday was a great victory for Los Angeles Valley College mens swim team as they dominated College of the Canyons 79 to 25.

Wonmeen Jun won the 200 freestyle in 1:55.4 and the 100 freestyle in 49:9 (best time this season). He led off the winning 400 medley relay in 3:59.8 (Jun, Robert Brown, Steve Costales and Steve Barron).

Sergio Coronado won both distance events the 1,000 freestyle (11:31.2) and the 500 freestyle (5:27.2). Robert Brown won the 200 breaststroke in 2:25.7 (best time season) and Ryan Barry won the 200 backstroke in 2:10.8 (best time this season).

Jesse Ellis took first place in the one meter diving event (159.45 points) and Scott Swinford took second (150.35 pts). In the three meter event they traded places. Swinford took first place (160.6 pts) and Ellis was second (157.85 pts) Bree Bartlett of

Valley was third (141.25 pts).

LAVC women swimmers beat COC, 63 to 47. Lacy Weaver won 50 freestyle (27.8) and 100 butterfly (1:09.2) and also led off the winning 200 freestyle relay in a 1:56 (Weaver, Jennifer Cole, Melanie Weber and Lisa Fletcher).

The Valley ladies also won the 200 medley relay in 2:20 (Cole, Heidi Smith, Chris Myers and Justine Lawrence).

Feliz Barragan won both the one and three meter diving events. milla Ocon was pulled from the pool during the 500 freestyle after complaining of chest pains.

Last Wednesday LAVC men and ladies swim teams were both overpowered by El Camino. The LAVC ladies lost 89 to 38 and the men lost 68 to 35.

Lacey Weaver won the 50 butterfly (31.4) and placed second in the 100 butterfly (1:10.2).

The LAVC men won the 400 freestyle relay in 3:28.5 (Jun, Costales, Barry and Chris Imhof. Ryan Barry won the 200 butterfly (2:13.9).

Athletes of the month

Los Angeles Valley College March Athletes of the Month were sophomores Willie Rivera and Nicole Rucker.

Rivera, a member of LAVC's baseball team hails from Burbank. For the month of March, Rivera is 5-1 with four saves, and a 2.73 earned run average with 28 strikeouts and 10 walks.

As a member of LAVC's track team, Nicole Rucker remains undefeated in both the 100 and 200 meter dash within the Western State Conference. With her leading times of 12.6 and 26.2. Rucker, who attended high school in Colorado, is also a member of the conference's top women's 4x100 relay team. In the Western State Conference, Rucker has contributed to the team's 49.4 second clocking.

LAVC's February athletes of the month were Lady Monarch forward Luscinda Silva and swimmer Wonmeen Jun.

—Compiled by Amanda L. Duchow

Errors plague Monarchs in 5-4 loss

By ANDREW SAMUELSON
Staff Writer

Victory was within the grasp of the Monarch baseball team against College of the Canyons on Tuesday, but they threw it away.

In a game that matched the top two teams in the Western States Conference, the first place Cougars defeated Valley 5-4 with the help of seven Monarch errors, six of which were committed in the last three innings of the game. COC overcame a two-run deficit in the bottom of the ninth inning to win the game. Valley committed two errors which helped load the bases for COC's short stop John Aguilar who hit a double that scored the game winning run.

"If you can't play basic catch then you're not going win many games," Valley Coach Chris Johnson said. "The way we played today was uncharacteristic of the

way we have been playing. Maybe the week off affected us."

COC improved its record to 18-2 and lengthened its lead over Valley to five and a half games. Valley is now 12-7-1 and remains in second place. Valley is still in position to reach the state play-offs because three teams from the Western States Conference will qualify.

One bright spot for Valley was the pitching of Willie Rivera. Rivera threw the entire game, scattering eleven hits and allowing just one earned run. Every time Valley made a mistake in the field, Rivera was able to shake it off and retire the next batter. Unfortunately, his luck ran out in the ninth inning.

The Cougars also received strong pitching from their starter Kevin Foderaro who gave up just four hits and allowed two earned runs in seven and a third innings before getting replaced by Jason Chandler in

the eighth inning. COC was also plagued by poor fielding, committing three errors of its own.

"It wasn't an ugly game until it got tight," COC coach Len Mahoney said. "Obviously, they made their mistakes at the end. A loss wouldn't have hurt us, but they just got to be sick right now."

Offensively, Valley was lead by catcher Anthony Paschia who had two hits, drove in a run and scored. First baseman David Stevenson extended his hitting streak to 20 games when he singled in the top of the eighth inning.

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